

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A method of screening for the presence of cirrhosis of the liver in a ~~mammal-human~~ ^{patient} suspected of having cirrhosis of the liver, said method comprising measuring the level of YKL-40 in a biological sample of the ~~mammal~~ patient; and comparing the level to that of a normal, healthy ~~mammal-human~~, wherein a statistically significant difference is an indicator for the presence of cirrhosis of the liver in said patient.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of YKL-40 in said sample is measured using an immunoassay.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the immunoassay is a competitive immunoassay.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the immunoassay utilizes a detectable label selected from the group consisting of radioisotopes, enzymes, fluorescent molecules, chemiluminescent molecules, bioluminescent molecules, and colloidal metals to measure YKL-40.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the immunoassay uses a polyclonal antibody to measure YKL-40.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the immunoassay uses a monoclonal antibody to measure YKL-40.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, plasma, and serum.

Claims 9-17 (Canceled).